Nation Education Guide 2016

Nation

Volume 23, No. 06 • January 22, 2016

Making it official

Willie's Place to celebrate reopening after turbulent first year

Joseph Boyden's novels and activism recognized

Alan Gull guardian angel

Boarding homes in the spotlight

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Planting green islands and mature trees in schoolyards. This initiative is intended to offset the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of the provincial Mine Rescue Championship held in Chibougamau in May 2015.

A different kind of offset project, in urban school settings, closer to people and their living environment.

The schoolchildren were invited to take part in the activity, allowing apprentice gardeners to have a better understanding of the environmental scope of human activities and fostered a sense of belonging to their school, their city and their region.

Thank you to the schoolchildren and our invaluable collaborators!

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together creating sustainable value
créer ensemble de la valeur durable

GOLDCORP
ÉLÉONORE

Any day now

by Will Nicholls

My wife is expecting another son. The due date was January 15, but the doctors say it could be the week after. I'm hoping he will have arrived by the time you read this.

Given the anticipation, it's hard to talk about anything else in a meaningful manner. Knowing you have taken part in creating a new life tends to put everything else on the back burner. A $1.5 billion Powerball jackpot doesn't compare… though I hope my cousins and friends will remember me if they get lucky.

Wondering how Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will get refugees into Canada or legalize pot is just a passing fancy compared to the way an impending birth focuses one's attention. I have a child waiting to greet the world. I can hardly wait to see him, to hold him and to feel the new life I will take responsibility for.

All else takes second place, including writing a scathing editorial about the services Cree patients aren't receiving. That doesn't mean it's not an important issue that needs to be addressed. But it's difficult to summon the outrage when, like all imminent parents, my headspace is crowded by the worries and hopes inspired by these last few days of my wife's pregnancy. I will take the time to address the rights and wrongs of the world another day.

My family needs me just as every family member is needed at this time. I am not a Christian as I follow Native spirituality beliefs but I give credit to other religions. After all, how can we as human beings fully encompass or understand what a Creator/God really is? I think we can only see parts of creation and who or whatever made this universe come into being. However, the Bible, the Koran and the Torah all essentially agree that God created man in his own image. In my mind, that idea encompasses more than mankind but all life as we know it. We have been given the power of creation. Being part of bringing a life into being is an amazing experience.

It is one I have cherished from years back when my son Eric was born. It was given to me again when my son Hunter was born. I will be blessed once again when Declan greets the world. For a few moments I will feel the power of creation fulfilled. Sharing it with my wife, I will know such happiness and joy. It's a sensation this new person we created will continue to bring throughout our lives.

This child, like my other sons, was conceived in love. That love I will feel it as long I live. That is who we are as parents, as family and as people. I will return to what seems like the mundane problems of the world later to acknowledge and insist on their importance. But, for now, I have one concern, one priority and an overpowering sense that this is the most important time in our life to focus on family and our creation.

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Intervention worker Benoit Théorêt, Melissa B. Saganash, Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come

photo by
Sharon Hunter

Winter benefits

by Sonny Orr

Ooowwwaaahhh! It's chilly! I slowly creep out of bed, the early morning light outside barely makes it past the curtains. Using my cellphone, I light my way to the thermostat and start up the trusty oil furnace. No electric heating up here! I take a quick look outside through the snow-covered windows. Is that the furnace making all that noise or is it the house shaking? I worry not and head back to bed. It's just a full blown blizzard. I'm betting no one makes it to work, or school or anywhere this morning. The little radio is turned on and JBCCS faithfully tells us that there is no school. Facebook soon confirms that the band office is closed. Only the police and clinic remain open. I wonder if the Post Office will always stay opened as its doors are usually buried deep in weather like this. Forget about any planes today.

Facebook posts from the rest of the communities basically tell the same story. The highways are closed in some spots, the power is out here and there and the weatherman is just enjoying being the center of attention today. The local radio opens to tell us that the weather is bad and most likely will broadcast that there will be a Bingo tonight. Nothing stops Bingo it seems. The local bar already states that it will close tonight for sure. Sounds like a good time to watch Chinese sub-titled movies rented from some hacker.

But for many people from the North, it's an expected reality. In fact, if not for sub-zero cold temperatures and piles of snow, it would be pretty hard to get by. Can you imagine, trying to go ice fishing and there's no ice? Or how about some shinny (street hockey) where you can't actually wear skates? Or get around in town without your skidoo with barely enough snow to skim the skis on ice and gravel? Yeah I know, you can always do these things like fish and get around in your vehicle, but you know what I mean. What's winter without winter?

Mysterious bags and suitcases are brought from the basement and magically, there's that incredibly useful set of snow pants and matching jacket. Hey, is that a Canada Goose parka from back in the day when Canada Goose was only good for days like today? Today, miniskirts are made out of Canada Goose materials, for the foolhardy and long legged, it's a blessing. How can you look good and stay warm these days without a Canada Goose logo to confirm that it is indeed frostbite free and wicks out moistures until your skin is actually so dry it flakes.

Venturing outside brings back memories of the past. Some warm but mostly cold memories surface and I'm glad that I live so close to all the commercial buildings (that happen to be closed anyways) so if I had to, I could just don a regular parka and get where I want within a minute, that is if the shelves were stocked and not depleted because the cargo flights couldn't make it.

Way back in the day, we sent a brave soul to the north and he was stranded for about two weeks in a never ending blizzard. Thankfully there was a fax machine that worked and we were able to secure some credit to keep him boarded and fed. He came back all disheveled and bearded and told us to send him up north only during the summer months, so we did. He got stranded for about a week in fog, but that's another story.

Not to worry, winter is back and I'm happy with the resulting winter panorama. Hopefully the bad weather holds up…

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photo by Sharon Hunter

Carole Marcil and Christopher Stephen, employees at Chez Willie's, Grand Chief Matthew Coon-Come and Melissa B. Saganash

Making it official

Willie's Place to celebrate reopening after turbulent first year

by Jesse Staniforth

It's actually been three months since Willie's Place quietly re-opened its doors at a new location after a funding crunch closed it last year, but now Val-d'Or's homeless drop-in centre is ready to make it official.

"There's going to be a ribbon cutting, with speeches from local and political partners, and institutional partners," said Sharon Hunter of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre. "Hopefully we'll get to invite the Hester family as well," she added, referring to relatives of the late Willie Hester, after whom the daytime drop-in is named. The inauguration ceremony is planned for March.

The new Willie's Place, located at 728 4th Avenue, began taking clients in mid-October while it conducted renovations of the new building. A successful pilot project at the beginning of 2015, it was forced to close last April, when its initial funding ran out. Last summer, though, CREECO provided new funding of $43,000 raised during its annual golf tournament.

However, once they had enough money to reopen Willie's Place, the Friendship Centre and their partners at homeless shelter La Piaule (and other organizations) discovered their location at the former Chateau Louis had been sold. It took until fall to find another suitable location. Then, shortly after Willie's Place cracked open its doors, the Val-d'Or police crisis ultimately led to another funding boost from the provincial government. This cash will help keep the doors open at least until March 2017.

"We opened back in October because we were faced with kind

of an emergency," Hunter recalled. "The wet season was upon us, and it had already snowed. We found ourselves with 20 people downstairs at the Friendship Centre who had nowhere to go. La Piaule had no flexibility in its opening hours, so even knowing we were going to be under renovations and the place would be a construction site, we opened on an emergency basis."

Hunter is glad that the stressful period of simultaneously opening the centre and providing services out of an unfinished building is over. She looks forward to marking the occasion.

"Hopefully a lot of our partners, local and Eeyou, will be able to join us for this beautiful event," she said, noting that many of the people who frequent Willie's Place are from Eeyou Istchee and have difficulty going home. "I can understand the context: the Cree communities are farther away from Val-d'Or, and there are a variety of different situations that make it so [Crees] get stuck in the city. There are all kinds of reasons that would make someone end up in the street."

For the next year Willie's Place will be able to run as planned – and a variety of stakeholders across Val-d'Or are very happy about that.

"After the 16-week pilot phase at the old Chateau Louis, we saw interesting results," Hunter said. "There were fewer calls to police, less of a homeless presence in the emergency room, less public intoxication, and fewer people sleeping in bank ATMs. I think the best one is that we most likely saved lives – we saved people from freezing in the cold and getting pneumonia."

To that end, she notes that in the past month, Willie's Place has helped six people get into housing in Val-d'Or, where housing discrimination by many landlords make it difficult for any Native person to find an apartment, much less a homeless Native.

"It's one thing to get them in, but the real work starts in keeping them there," Hunter said. "They still remain in that fragile, vulnerable state until they take themselves into their own hands. It's a slow process, but a very rewarding one."

Alan Gull guardian angel

A recent situation places the running of boarding homes in the spotlight

by Joshua Grant

Faced with an additional case of ill treatment just before Christmas, the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB) now plans to phase out the use of private boarding homes for Cree Patient Services (CPS) by this June.

The latest issue involved six women – three nursing and one pregnant – who were left alone at a Montreal home for over two days without food. The women took to Facebook looking for help.

"They were left there on their own," said Alan Gull of Native Para-Judicial Services in Montreal.

Gull was a well-known intervention officer and street worker who continues to help First Nations both on and off the street despite his new job. He was contacted by the Cree women on Facebook after they arrived to an empty, unkempt boarding home with no food available to them.

"On that Saturday (December 19), I took over some food from my place," Gull said. "They contacted me again the following day saying that nobody was responding to them from Cree Patient Services. Normally [CPS] would have to respond after hours. I called a few friends of mine and they gave me phone numbers to call, but no one was answering. I called the CPS emergency line as well and got no response."

In the end, Gull contacted Keo Sinclair, a former colleague at the Montreal Native Friendship Centre, and together the two of them bought the hungry patients groceries out of their own pocket and delivered them to the home.

"When we got there they were very happy," said Gull.

While this is one of many negative experiences of Cree patients at boarding homes in Montreal, Gull says it's unfortunate that these types of situations become public and make the rounds of social media rather than being handled promptly and professionally.

Gull believes that Cree boarding homes should remain an option for patients who leave their communities seeking medical treatment.

"Not everyone wants to stay in a hotel," he said. "There are only two Cree boarding homes in Montreal, [run by] people who came from the north to try and generate revenue. These are people who left their community to try and do something good.

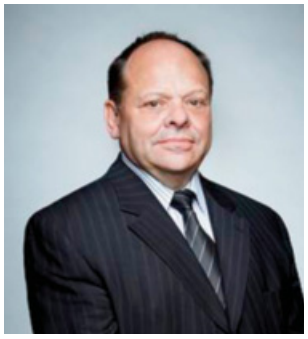
"I really think Cree boarding homes should be an option for Cree patients for people who want to have a good home cooked meal and talk to other Crees," Gull added. "It helps people who are sick to be able to talk to people, especially in their own language. It helps to take some of that weight off their shoulders."

In an official statement, CBHSSJB interim Executive Director Daniel St. Amour said, "The Cree Health Board is continuing its investigation of what happened at this boarding home...[and] once the investigation is complete, we will make a decision about whether to start using this boarding home again.

"We will no longer use boarding homes in Montreal unless the patient chooses to stay there as private lodging," St. Amour continued. "Right now we are looking for a place that can accommodate all our clients under one roof. No lodging is perfect 100% of the time, but by having most of our clients together in one place, our staff can be more present, we can monitor quality more closely, and we can act faster when there are problems."

The Cree Health Board's Communications Coordinator Katherine Morrow also added that employees of the CBHSSJB "need to be reachable at all times, even on holidays and weekends."

Alan Gull of Native Para Judicial Services



courtesy CBHSSJB

CBHSSJB interim Executive Director Daniel St. Amour

She noted that the CPS's after-hours number is posted on their website, www.creehealth.org/cps, and the official Facebook page is always monitored if you like and follow @creehealth.

CPS coordinates the logistics for around 164 patients and escorts per day in Montreal and the boarding homes in question are private enterprises that simply provide a service to the health board. Boarding homes must meet hygiene and food quality standards, ensured by inspections performed by the CBHSSJB.

Moose Cree team up with Nishnawbe-Aski Police

Moose Cree First Nation is teaming up with the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service (NAPS) to fight drug trafficking in their community.

NAPS Chief of Police Terry Armstrong and Northeast Region Inspector Eric Cheechoo, along with Chief Norm Hardisty Jr. and the Moose Cree First Nation Council, met January 11 to sign an agreement laying out the partnership, then enjoyed a feast to commemorate the agreement.

Two NAPS officer positions will be funded by the Moose Cree Nation for one year. The officers will receive training and equipment from the NAPS and have the specific mandate to prevent and investigate drug-related offences.

"Our people have been clear that they want steps taken to reduce drug abuse and the trafficking of drugs in our community," said Hardisty in a press release. "We recognize that drug use is destructive. It is hurting our children, families and community and we are committed to work with the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service to prevent and reduce it to the greatest extent possible."

Hardisty noted that the Moose Cree could not wait any longer for additional officers and resources to address the high levels drug distribution and drug abuse taking place within the community and decided to take action of their own. Moose Cree First Nation is still calling on assistance from Ontario and the federal government on this issue.

Dog killed, tires slashed in Mistissini trailer park

According to reports from Mistissini, people living in and around the trailer park on the northern edge of the community have been experiencing bizarre and seemingly random acts of mischief and violence.

In recent weeks a few community members reported having the tires on their vehicle slashed. Another story involves the killing of a dog, which was then left on someone's front porch.

Joe Saganash of the Eeyou Eenou Police Force in Mistissini says local officers are investigating a lead in the cases. He also noted that residents in this area have been warned and should keep a close eye out for suspicious activities.

Charlo Iserhoff dies after domestic incident

Mistissini's Charlo Iserhoff died January 3 following an incident during a party on Queen Street the day before.

Police were called to the house party on the afternoon of January 2. A Sûreté du Québec (SQ) spokesperson said that Charlo's 25-year-old nephew, Jamie Iserhoff, was arrested in connection with Charlo's death. Jamie was charged with forcible confinement on January 3, and later released on certain conditions.

According to Mistissini police, both Charlo and Jamie had been drinking before Charlo was seriously injured. He was transported to the Mistissini clinic and then brought to the hospital in Chibougamau where he died from his injuries. The SQ may press additional charges following the completion of an autopsy.

Ashley Iserhoff, another one of Charlo's nephews, says that having Jamie implicated in Charlo's death is almost like losing another family member. "It's hard to accept," he told the CBC. The Iserhoff family has dealt with a number of tragedies in the past few years.

Mistissini's Charlo Iserhoff

Ashley remembered Charlo for his supportive nature and sense of humour. "[Charlo] was always there to help me and my siblings," Ashley continued. "He was a very caring individual even though he had a hard life himself."

CHAD CARPENTER'S
TUNDRA
OH, PHOOEY. LOOKS LIKE I GRABBED "BAT NIP" BY MISTAKE.
HE'S ADORABLE! OH, AND LOOK! HE HAS YOUR EYES!
TERRITORY MARKING FOR THE CIVILIZED WOLF
11-1
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Nation Education Guide 2016

From plumbing to physics, your education and career opportunities are endless.

***The Nation* outlines your options from Eeyou Istchee to Vancouver Island.**

by Joshua Grant and Lyle Stewart

The best way to set yourself up for future success in life is to invest in education and network with the friends and colleagues around you to turn that education into meaningful employment and a satisfying career.

Developing the knowledge and the skills to pursue a field that makes the most of your potential is as challenging as it is rewarding. If you start planning now and make a realistic assessment of what motivates you and makes you passionate, the next step is determining how to gain the expertise you need to do what you love.

Some find it difficult deciding what program is right for them. Not everyone may feel as though they have a single calling or clear vision for their work life. Thankfully there are a number of options available to those looking to hone their skills, embark on a new education experience or simply return to school to take on a new challenge and shift into a different industry.

Numerous colleges and universities in northern Quebec have programs specifically designed for First Nations students that are based around the employment needs and job opportunities within Eeyou Istchee. Whether you are looking for a college diploma, university degree, technical certificate or continuing education, the academic options available to members of the Cree Nation outlined here can help you prepare for your studies and equip you to succeed in a career of your choosing.

In the North

If you're looking to pursue further education or professional training within Eeyou Istchee, the Cree School Board's Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Centre has a wide range of interesting and exciting programs to help you develop the skills you need to achieve gainful employment.

While the main facility is located in Waswanipi, Sabtuan offers a variety of academic courses and trade programs throughout the James Bay area, including Chisasibi, Mistissini, Nemaska and Wemindji. Keep an eye out for additional upcoming cohorts as new start dates are announced throughout the year for many other interesting courses, such as Bus Driving, Trucking, Professional Cooking, Carpentry, Computing Support and Home Care Assistance.

Here is a list with course descriptions of Sabtuan's programs that will be offered in the coming year.

Chisasibi

Starting a Business – start date to be confirmed. The Starting a Business course is a 330-hour program instructed in English that teaches project management skills and helps potential entrepreneurs develop and prepare their own business plan. If you have an idea for a business or would like to eventually strike out on your own as an independent business owner, here's your chance to learn the concrete steps to do so successfully. The course is offered in both Chisasibi and Wemindji and has no academic prerequisites.

Accounting – Winter 2016, start date to be confirmed. Thinkers, mathematicians and those who enjoy managing money and budgeting are some of the personality types commonly found amongst accountants. Graduates of the Sabtuan accounting program master manual and digital accounting tasks, learn how to manage and maintain bookkeeping and demonstrate bilingual communication skills. This course is delivered in English and consists of 1,350 hours of class time.

Secretarial Studies – Start date January 25. Secretarial Studies lasts 1,485 hours and is in taught in English, teaching those interested in a career in administration how to work efficiently and effectively in the workplace. This program caters to organized, sharp-minded individuals and teaches essential office skills such as producing, updating and proofreading business documents, utilizing word processing, database and spreadsheet computer software and using telecommunication tools. Students will also develop their knowledge of labour laws and write business texts in both English and French.

Registration for the accounting and secretarial studies programs in Chisasibi closes very soon, but both courses are on regular rotation in Sabtuan's schedule and are offered in several Eeyou communities each year.

Machine Operations, Mineral and Metal Processing

STOREKEEPING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT

This program emphasizes the attitude and ability to advise clients on different types and quality levels of merchandise.

- ✓ *Starts March 19th, 2016*
- ✓ *Registration closes March 8, 2016*
- ✓ *Waswanipi*
- ✓ *1095 hours*

SELL REPLACEMENT PARTS, MACHINES, TOOLS AND ACCESSORIES!

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Sabtuan Adult Education Services
Service de l'éducation des adultes Sabtuan

Northern Building Maintenance (photo courtesy of Sabtuan)

Mistissini

Electricity – starts March 14. Sabtuan's Electricity program is delivered in English and involves 1800 hours of class time. Students familiarize themselves with electrical drawings, specifications, technical manuals and maintenance procedures and learn to verify the voltage, current and power of electrical circuits. Program objectives include learning to install, repair, modify and maintain circuits, electronic systems and communication networks. If you're good with your hands and enjoy problem solving, this course will give you the chance to see the inner workings of a heavily relied upon essential service.

Nemaska

Plastering – starts Winter 2016. The Plastering course offered in Nemaska equips its students with the practical skills of applying plaster on a variety of surfaces, using both a trowel and a machine, attaching metal mouldings, sealing gypsum sheet joints, carrying out plaster moulding work and placing prefabricated ornamental elements. This is the type of practical training ideal for those interested in renovations and interior construction. Over the course of 810 hours, students learn everything there is to know about the trade while studying and applying the health-and-safety standards associated with this occupation.

Waswanipi

Hotel Reception – registration opens soon, start date to be confirmed. Hotel Reception is taught in English and is a 735-hour course. Students learn the ins and outs of maintaining guest registry books, answering client inquiries concerning hotel services, and using computerized and manual systems to handle administration duties in a hotel setting. If you're a multi-talented person with customer service and computer skills, a Hotel Reception certificate could be your ticket to a comfortable job at a front desk.

Northern Heavy Equipment Operations – registration opens soon, start date is May 20. This program teaches the basic principles of construction infrastructure as well as the knowledge and application of safety regulations in the industry. This is your chance to hop on industrial vehicles, move tons of earth and materials, and get started in the heavy lifting aspect of construction. Students learn how to maintain heavy machinery and master the operation of different types of machines through a hands-on approach and comprehensive class experience. The course is delivered in English and lasts 900 hours.

Wemindji

Mining Mobile Mechanics, Semi-Automatic Welding and Starting a Business – The mining and welding courses are new offerings from Sabtuan that are currently in development with start date announcements coming soon.

The Sabtuan Regional Vocational Training Centre in Waswanipi is also offering a course in Semi-Automatic Welding, along with a program on Storekeeping and Information Systems for Motorized Equipment taught in French starting on March 19. More information regarding the content and duration of these new courses should be available soon on the Sabtuan website.

For any information on Sabtuan's Regional Vocational Training Programs and a list of the other programs that will be available in the future, visit www.csbsaes.ca/en/vocational-programs/, call 418-923-2764 ext. 321, toll free at 1-844-923-3347 or e-mail sabtuanadulted@cscree.qc.ca.

Courses in Chibougamau

Cégep de Saint-Félicien, through the Centre for Collegial Studies in Chibougamau, has a wide variety of training adapted for Crees and the northern job market.

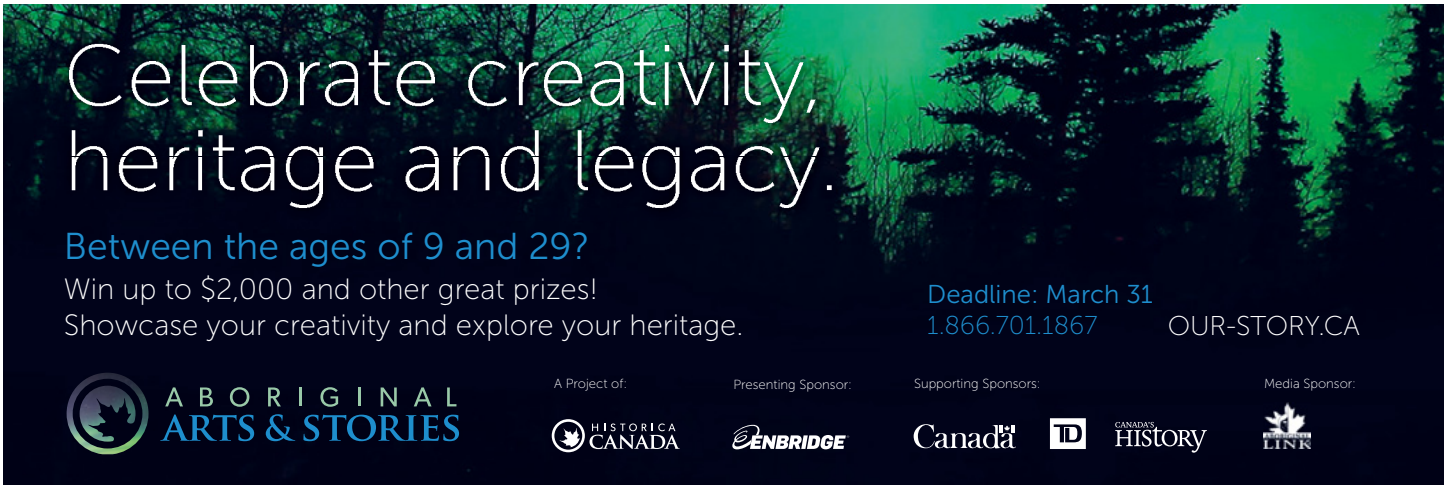
First and foremost, the Chibougamau Centre provides a range of training in childcare and social work. The Native Childcare Services program ensures its graduates meet the required employment needs of childcare service workers in Eeyou Istchee. The program is delivered over 1455 hours often within the communities themselves. Last year, training was offered in Chisasibi and Oujé-Bougoumou and a new cohort begins in January in Mistissini.

The Special Needs Educator Profession for Aboriginal and Inuit Children program is now in its 16th year and is regularly taught within the territory. This 915-hour course is structured to equip students with the necessary skills to intervene in the daily lives of families and children to facilitate prevention, re-education and rehabilitation. Last year, the program was offered in Mistissini; this year, it will be hosted in Waskaganish.

Other interesting options for First Nations students available through the Chibougamau Centre, include several tourism-based programs (like Land Products Development) and environment-based programs (like Building Environmental and Aboriginal Human Resources (BEAHR), www.eco.ca/beahr/).

All of Cégep de Saint Felicien's training programs that are offered at the Chibougamau location are accredited by the Quebec Ministry of Education and earn their graduates a Quebec college diploma. Those interested in learning more about these programs and other courses offered by the school are invited to call the Chibougamau Centre for Collegial Studies at 418-748-3903, ext. 223.

Cégep de Saint-Félicien



Courses in Val d'Or

Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue has a campus in Val-d'Or complete with a First Nations Student Services department that provides academic support and responds to the different needs of Aboriginal students. Also on campus is the Salon des Premières Nations where students can study, relax, participate in workshops and group discussions, and engage with peers in both French and English.

The Cégep provides a wide range of full-time courses, offers Continuing Education services and gives individualized training and short programs that can be hosted on site in different communities. The Val-d'Or campus offers accounting, special education, child education, management, marketing and customer service, and administration courses in French, delivered in a First Nation and Inuit context.

www.cegepat.qc.ca/accueil/premieres-nations

The Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (UQAT) offers a number of programs tailored to First Nations students, instructed

Cégep de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

To all our students, continue to strive
forward staying focused on your goals!
We look forward in celebrating with you at the finish line!

Kathleen J. Wootton, Chairperson
Cree School Board Council of Commissioners

Abraham Jolly, Director General
Cree School Board Senior Directors

Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow
belongs to those who prepare for it today.

L'éducation est le passeport pour le futur, car demain
appartient à ceux qui s'y préparent aujourd'hui.

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- Malcolm X

Department of
Justice and Correctional Services
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Record Suspension Program

You can apply for a record suspension (pardon) to have your criminal record sealed, which can help you to get a job

You may be eligible if you:

- Were convicted of a criminal offence
- Have completed all the requirements of your sentence and probation
- You have completed the 5 or 10 year waiting period, depending on the nature of the offence

If you are a Cree beneficiary, the Cree Nation Government (CNG) can help you to fill out the record suspension application and if you qualify for financial assistance, the CNG may pay the costs associated with the application.

Need Help on How to Apply?

Contact your Local Community Reintegration Officer:

Chisasibi:	819-855-2120
Eastmain:	819-977-2400
Mistissini:	418-923-2661
Nemaska:	819-673-2400
Ouje-bougoumou:	418-745-2260
Waskaganish:	819-895-2126
Waswanipi:	819-753-2770
Wemindji:	819-978-3300
Whapmagoostui:	819-929-3796

If you have any additional questions or need more information, please contact the Correctional Services Regional Office in Val d'or at 819-874-2600 or by email at justice.valdor@cngov.ca.

www.creejustice.ca

NISKAMOON CORPORATION

The Niskamoon Board of Directors and staff wish all students the very best of luck and success in 2016!
We believe in you!

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UQAT

both in French and in English depending on student demand.

While Aboriginal students have access to all of UQAT's programs, the university has also developed specific courses aimed towards the unique cultural and learning approaches of First Nations and Inuit. The goal of these classes is to adapt teaching styles and class resources that incorporate Aboriginal perspectives and use course material and class examples that accurately reflect Aboriginal realities.

If you're looking for university education not too far outside the Cree Nation that caters to Native students, take a look at the variety of culturally sensitive programs that UQAT has to offer:

Aboriginal Training and Programs Development Unit: University Studies Preparatory Program, Certificate in Aboriginal Studies, Undergraduate short program in Aboriginal Tourism Management, Undergraduate Short Program in Childhood-Family Intervention in an Aboriginal context.

Management: Certificate in Human Resources Management, Certificate in Administration, Certificate in Management and Regional Development, Executive Master of Business Administration (EMBA).

Education: Certificate in Plastic Arts, Certificate in Primary Education for Substitute Teachers, Bachelor Degree in Preschool Education and Primary Teaching.

Human and Social Development: Bachelor of Social Work

Creation and New Media: Certificate in Digital Creation

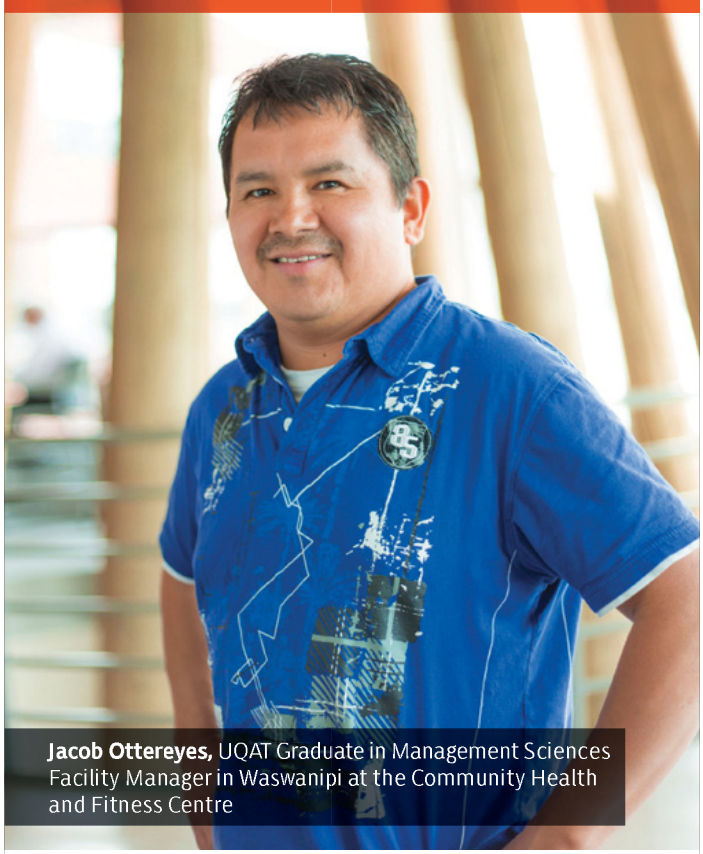
For those looking to study in French, UQAT offers a similar range of programs with a few additional options:

Unité de formation et de développement des programmes autochtones : Programme préparatoire aux études universitaires, Certificat en études autochtones, Microprogramme de 1er cycle en études autochtones, Microprogramme de 1er cycle en gestion du tourisme autochtone, Microprogramme de 1er cycle en intervention enfance-famille en contexte autochtone.

Gestion : Certificat en arts plastiques, Certificat en accompagnement à l'enseignement primaire, Microprogramme de 1er cycle de formation à l'en-

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF
OPTIMIZING YOUR MANAGEMENT SKILLS?

ARE YOU PLANNING ON
GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?



Jacob Ottereyes, UQAT Graduate in Management Sciences
Facility Manager in Waswanipi at the Community Health and Fitness Centre

UQAT, FIRST PEOPLES PAVILION

CERTIFICATES STARTING IN FALL 2016 :

/ ADMINISTRATION
/ MANAGEMENT AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Possibility of graduating from a bachelor degree by cumulating multiple certificates in management sciences.

Other programs are available in other domains, on campus or in community, providing a sufficient number of admissible candidates. In French or in English!

ADMISSION DEADLINE : March 1st

CONTACT US
Toll free: 1 866 891-UQAT ext. 6296
spp-fps@uqat.ca

uqat.ca/firstpeoples

UQAT
CAMPUS DE VAL-D'OR

uqat.ca

seignement d'une langue seconde en contexte autochtone, Baccalauréat en éducation préscolaire et en enseignement primaire.

Développement humain et social : Baccalauréat en travail social

Création et nouveaux médias : Certificat en création numérique

The deadline to apply to UQAT is March 1 for full-time studies and June 1 for part-time studies. For more information on the wide range of services, programs and resources UQAT has for Aboriginal students, visit www.uqat.ca/en/services/firstpeoples or call 819-874-8728.

Still overwhelmed or unsure of what you'd like to study? Dissatisfied with your current job or hoping to branch out into something new?

Cree Human Resources Development (CHRD) supports the Sabtuan Regional Vocational programs mentioned above but also provides members of the Cree Nation with comprehensive training and upgrading of skills, employment placement, targeted wage subsidies, self-employment assistance and career counselling.

CHRD can offer you advice on getting started on your career path and set you up for institutional training in the field you'd like to work in. They also help both individuals and organizations secure funding for training fees, travel expenses and salaries.

In short, CHRD is there to help both Cree and non-Cree achieve meaningful employment and acquire the training and skills they need to secure a job in their field of interest. Visit the CHRD website at www.chrd.ca, e-mail info@chrd.ca or contact the Mistissini office at 418-923-2525.

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In the South

Post-secondary students from Eeyou Istchee have a wealth of opportunities to expand their horizons in the south, whether it is in Quebec, Ontario or elsewhere in Canada.

Quebec institutions

John Abbott College

This English-language Cégep is nestled on the far western tip of the Island of Montreal in Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, a beautiful leafy town that bustles to student life centred on the large historic campus.

John Abbott College collaborates with Aboriginal communities to offer services and programs to encourage and support the academic success and retention of Aboriginal students.

Services include the Aboriginal Student Resource Centre, a comfortable and welcoming place where students can come and relax, work, talk, get tutoring and counselling. The centre works in collaboration with Aboriginal communities and institutions such as the Cree School Board and Kativik School Board post-secondary student services.

A two-semester program prepares Cree students for the college stream of their choice and helps others who are unsure of their career path to explore their options.

www.johnabbott.qc.ca

Kiuna Institution

Kiuna Institution offers a college education specialized for First Nations students in the picturesque Abenaki community of Odanak, located 110 km northeast of Montreal. Kiuna's programming is based on the culture, social background and interests of Aboriginal students while still adhering to provincial standards.

If you are looking to move into a mainstream Cégep, Kiuna offers an integration term followed by a transition term so that new students more easily adapt to college life. Once transition terms are completed, students can take Kiuna's unique First Nations Social Science program.

This multifaceted approach to an Aboriginal-developed college education is a great way to learn about citizenship and responsibility, First Nations rights, socioeconomic development and self-government, as well as traditional culture and the history of First Nations.

Kiuna Institution

John Abbott College

Online programs in

Indigenous Policy and Administration

Graduate Diplomas in Indigenous Policy and Administration.

Master of Public Policy and Administration: Electives in Indigenous Policy and Administration.

Our graduate programs in Indigenous Policy and Administration (IPA) prepare students to be innovators and leaders in First Nation, Metis and Inuit governments and organizations, as well as in the other governments and organizations that work with Indigenous communities.

For information please visit: carleton.ca/sppa/ipa

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  - part-time studies
  - correspondence courses/programs
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- Social Support

APPLICATION DEADLINES:

- March 1st to commence studies for the Fall semester
- October 1st to commence studies for the Winter semester
- Three months prior for any other official starting date

Apply online at www.cscree.qc.ca

Or fill out an official Application Form available at CSB schools and Sabtuan Adult Education Centres, and must be submitted and post-marked no later than the deadline! Faxed or email applications are not acceptable

Post Secondary Student Services, 1440 Ste-Catherine St, West Suite 400, Montreal Qc, H3G 1R8 • Tel: 514-846-1155 • Fax: 514-846-1266 • Toll Free: 1 800-463-7402

Vanier College

Dawson College

On the west side of downtown Montreal, Dawson College offers great technical programs and excellent pre-university instruction. These include respected fine arts, theatre, design and science programs not available at other public institutions. This is the case for several specialized medical and information technology programs. In some cases, Dawson is the only college offering these programs in English.

The Dawson First Peoples Initiative is working on developing an Indigenous Studies Certificate, which should be available to students by Fall 2017. In the meantime, several courses offer considerable (or full) Indigenous Studies content. Feel free to directly contact teachers to find out details about course content.

www.dawsoncollege.qc.ca

Vanier College

The Nation's very own in-house copy editor Martin Siberok is a journalism prof at Vanier, so we can testify to this Cégep's quality faculty. Vanier, in fact, is a creative arts powerhouse, and is the only public English-language Cégep to offer a fully accredited music program.

Besides a strong selection of career programs (including Nursing, Special Care Counselling and Architectural Technology), Vanier has special pre-university double DEC programs, where students do their core courses in two different programs over a three-year period. Vanier also offers double DECS in Modern Languages and Music; Science and Music; and Social Science and Music.

Available as well are special pre-university double DEC programs, where students do their core courses in two different programs over a three-year period. While a heavy load, those undecided about going to med school or into law or the arts may find this a good option.

With faculty and staff, students can get involved in the Vanier Indigenous Circle. The Circle supports the personal wellbeing and academic goals of Aboriginal students during their time at the college. This can include anything from providing support during the transition from a small community to an urban setting, understanding college life, developing effective study skills, or providing a safe social network for students to get together.

www.vaniercollege.qc.ca

Champlain Regional College

Champlain College is on Montreal's South Shore, just minutes away from the Longueuil-Université de Sherbrooke metro station. Built on the principle of keeping labs and classes small, Champlain emphasizes personal attention and feedback from teachers.

Champlain is the only English-language public Cégep that provides a college education in three distinct regions of Quebec. The Lennoxville, St. Lambert, and St. Lawrence campuses offer a wide range of pre-university and technical programs, as well as extensive on and off campus Continuing Education services.

Since last summer, the St. Lambert campus has partnered with Kahnawake's First Nations Adult Education School Council to develop both a preparatory program and adapted First Nations Early Childhood Education program to address unemployment and underemployment issues experienced in the young adult (18-24) population. The program targets barriers to entry in college-level courses and ensures that this target market is properly prepared for acceptance into the AEC program and that students obtain the competencies to enter into the field of Early Childhood Education.

www.champlainonline.com

Heritage College

Heritage College is West Quebec's only English-language Cégep and is a solid option for those who want to study at a school near Ottawa.

Heritage offers pre-university programming in the fields of Liberal Arts, Science and Social Sciences with variations for those who want to pursue either Commerce or Mathematics options. In terms of career programs, Heritage features programs in Accounting and Management Technology, Computer Science, Early Childhood Care and Education, Hotel and Restaurant Management, New Media and Publication Design, and Tourism.

The Aboriginal Education Council at Heritage advises on educational issues affecting the Aboriginal student population. The Council submits recommendations on Aboriginal-specific program courses and external funding applications. It is also a resource on all subjects relating to the education and support needs of the college's Aboriginal population.

www.cegep-heritage.qc.ca

Private Colleges in Quebec

Quebec hosts many prestigious private intuitions. The following is a sampling of English-language institutions in Montreal.

Marianopolis College

High up the hill in post-Westmount, Marianopolis College is the only private option in Quebec that offers pre-university courses, an interesting option for highly competitive students looking to apply to major Canadian or US universities.

With smaller teacher-to-student ratios, students are guaranteed the extra attention they might need to get that leg up for med school, law school or other university programs. Marianopolis offers standard Science, Social Science, Commerce, Creative Arts, Literature and Languages, Music, Arts and Science and Music pre-university programs. They also offer several double DEC courses.

www.marianopolis.edu

Inter-Dec College / LaSalle College

Inter-Dec College and LaSalle College offer one of Canada's most recognized fashion design programs, as well as tourism, business, management, social science and E-learning programs that are unavailable elsewhere.

Located in downtown Montreal, these sister colleges offer distinct programming to develop specialty skills. Inter-Dec has career technical training in a number of fields but not the necessary credits to graduate with a DEC. They instead offer specialized courses with Attestations of Collegial Studies (AEC), Diplomas of Professional Studies (DEP) or In-House Diplomas (AE). This school is designed for those who want to

Inter-Dec College: Artistic Makeup – Fashion & Beauty

McGill University powwow

get into the job market immediately or are already working in their field and want to improve their skills. LaSalle offers a unique selection of pre-university and technical DEC programs, all of which lead either to accelerated university studies or straight to a job. Many of their programs are not available elsewhere in English. It should be noted that LaSalle is the largest bilingual college in North America and features five specialty schools with over 60 programs.
LaSalle also offers a number of E-learning courses that can be completed remotely, including: Event Planning and Management, E-Business, Fashion Marketing, Videogame 3D Modeling, Multimedia Integration, Infographic Design, Interior Design, and Administrative Assistant.
www.collegeinterdec.com
www.collegelasalle.com/

Trebas Institute

There's no business but show business at Montreal's Trebas Institute. Focused on the entertainment industry, Trebas offers exclusive programs in audio engineering and artist management.

With programs for Entertainment Management, Event and Venue Management, Film and Television Production and Post-Production, Trebas is a high-end college with unique programming – Trebas can even train you in DJ arts.

www.trebas.com

Montreal Universities

Montreal is a world-renowned city, but part of what gives the city its edge is its four large universities. While each has its own reputation, some of the fields of excellence that Montreal is recognized for include medicine, education, law, hard science and social sciences.

McGill University

Often on the list of top universities across the world, Canada's Ivy League school attracts world-renowned professors and researchers in many scientific, legal and medical fields. Top marks and work habits will be a requirement simply for acceptance to the McGill campus in downtown Montreal.

Last year, McGill launched an Indigenous Studies program under its Institute for the Study of Canada, an interdisciplinary minor program designed to bring First Nations issues to the forefront. The program will investigate "historical, social, and cultural dimensions of Indigenous life in Canada." Courses look at the treatment of Indigenous life, the experience of Indigeneity and gender, Indigenous resistance to the Canadian government, among others. In future years, the goal is to expand the program to include a major option, and many hope the program will expand into an institute on campus.

www.mcgill.ca

SEMI AUTOMATIC WELDING

This program emphasizes hands-on training and mastery of welding techniques with semi-automatic welding processes.

- ✓ *Starts March 19th, 2016*
- ✓ *Registration closes March 8, 2016*
- ✓ *Waswanipi*
- ✓ *675 hours*

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Sabtuan Adult Education Services
Service de l'éducation des adultes Sabtuan

Concordia's Aboriginal Student Resource Centre

Concordia University

Also in downtown Montreal, Concordia offers comprehensive Arts and Science, Fine Arts, and Engineering programs to an international student body. Of note for budding entrepreneurs, the relatively young John Molson School of Business has quickly grown in reputation as an incubator for the corporate world.

Concordia's Aboriginal Student Resource Centre is a welcoming location where students can meet, plan social activities or relax between classes. It offers a lounge, computer lab and numerous activities. As a walk-in centre for future and current students, you can access services and information.

www.concordia.cawww.concordia.ca

Bishop's University

Outside the big-city crush of Montreal, another English-language option is Bishop's University near Sherbrooke in the Eastern Townships. Primarily a small undergraduate school with a long history, Bishop's specializes in Education, Computer Science and Physics.

www.ubishops.ca

Eastern Ontario Schools

If you prefer to study in Ontario, our provincial neighbour has numerous colleges and universities offering Aboriginal-specific programs.

Algonquin College

With a wide variety of pre-university or career programs, Algonquin College boasts three different locations: Ottawa, Perth and Pembroke. Over 140 courses of study are offered, and Aboriginal students have the option of starting their Algonquin experience in the General Arts and Science Aboriginal Studies program in one- and two-year program formats. This program features specially tailored course content on Aboriginal peoples.

www.algonquincollege.com

Trent University

Located in Peterborough, Trent University's Indigenous Studies program is considered one of the best in the country.

Algonquin College students

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Hydlo and FRIENDS Online

Â nimâhâkiniwit amiskw
Detecting beaver activity

Following the partial diversion of the Rupert River, a team measures beaver activity along the river and in the Rupert's diversion bays. They count the active and inactive colonies and record the signs of occupation.

To watch the new video, visit **www.hydloandfriends.com**

James Wapachee, Field worker

Walter Jolly, Tallyman, Trapline N25, Nemaska

Matthew Wapachee, Tallyman, Trapline R19, Nemaska

Each month, a new video will be added to www.hydloandfriends.com. To learn more, listen to the Hydlo and Friends radio show on JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke MacLeod and Luc Duquette, discuss the environmental follow-up activities related to the Eastmain-Sarcelle-Rupert complex, as well as the concerns of land users with regard to Hydro-Québec's facilities and activities.

Next show:
Wednesday, February 17,
at 8:00 a.m.

Nipissing University

Trent offers various options to study Indigenous perspectives: an eight-course Diploma Program in Indigenous Studies or Indigenous Environmental Studies; a 15- or 20-course BA in Indigenous Studies; a 15- or 20-course BA or BSc in Indigenous Environmental Studies; and a two-year MA in Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies.

Trent provides a wealth of social, cultural and academic support through their First Peoples House of Learning. Cultural events include the Annual Elders and Traditional Persons Gathering, the Indigenous Women's Symposium, the Honouring the Land Symposium, The Sacred Water Circle Conference and the Pine Tree Talks and Seminars.

www.trentu.ca

Carleton University

Carleton University in Ottawa has a lot to offer First Nations students, beginning with the Centre for Aboriginal Culture and Education. CACE sets out to increase the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal students, faculty and staff at Carleton by ensuring Aboriginal cultures, traditions and worldviews are respected and represented on campus.

Carleton also offers the Aboriginal Enriched Support Program (AESP), studies that are tailored to support Aboriginal students making the transition to BA programs.

www.carleton.ca/

Queen's University

Located in Kingston, Queen's University helps integrate Aboriginal students who may be missing prerequisites with an alternative pathway for the first year of a full-time, undergraduate degree program.

As well, the Aboriginal Council of Queen's University, the Queen's Native Students Association, and the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre are resources offering cultural and academic support.

Queen's offers an Aboriginal Teacher Education program, a Master of Education in Aboriginal and World Indigenous Educational Studies, a Professional Master of Public Administration, a Minor in Indigenous Studies as well as an Aboriginal Access to Engineering Program.

www.queensu.ca

Laurentian University

Laurentian University in Sudbury has numerous programs catering to Indigenous people. For example, it offers one of the only two Bachelor of Native Social Work programs in Canada.

Their School of Native Human Services, Nishnaabe Kinoomaadwin Naadmaadwin (Native Teaching in Helping), also trains Aboriginals for careers in Child Welfare, Mental Health, Provincial/Federal Corrections, Community Development, Administration, Research & Development, and Health Care, among others.

www.laurentian.ca

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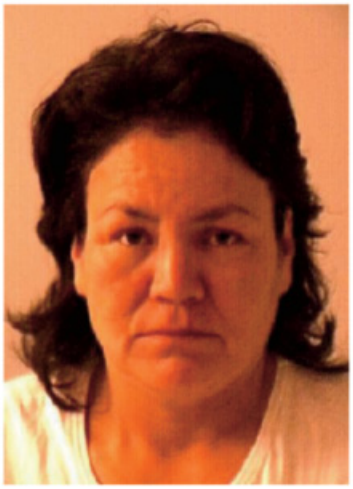
Pour toute information pouvant contribuer à élucider le meurtre de Sindy Ruperthouse
For any information that can help solve the murder of Sindy Ruperthouse

Disparue le 23 avril 2014
Âge: 44 ans au moment de sa disparition
Taille: 1,63 m
Poids: 59 kg
Yeux: bruns
Cheveux: noirs



Sindy Ruperthouse

Missing since April 23nd, 2014
Age: 44 yrs old when she went missing
Height: 5'4"
Weight: 131 lbs
Eye Color: Brown
Hair Color: Black

Le Service des enquêtes sur les crimes contre la personne de la Sûreté du Québec demandent l'aide de la population pour retrouver une femme d'origine autochtone de Val-d'Or. Sindy Ruperthouse a été vue pour la dernière le 23 avril 2014 à Val-d'Or.

The Investigation Service of crimes against the person of the Sûreté du Québec are asking for help from the public to find an Aboriginal woman in Val-d'Or. Sindy Ruperthouse was seen last April 23rd, 2014 in Val-d'Or.

S.V.P APPELEZ / PLEASE CALL
1-800-659-4264

Cette récompense est offerte par un donateur anonyme et expire le 22 juin 2016.
This reward is offered by an anonymous donor and expires on June 22, 2016.

Toute information fournie sera analysée et validée par les enquêteurs responsables du dossier (Sûreté du Québec).
***All information received will be analysed by the police force in charge of the investigation* (Sûreté du Québec).**

Mount Royal University

Nipissing University

Nipissing University course streams include an Aboriginal Teacher Certification Program, a Teacher of Anishnaabemwin as a Second Language Program, Native Classroom Assistant Diploma Program and a Native Special Education Assistant Diploma Program. Of note, Nipissing features a stand-alone Native Studies Department.

www.nipissingu.ca

Canadore College

Located in North Bay, Canadore College offers unique Aboriginal programs, such as Indigenous Preparatory Studies and an Indigenous Pre-Health Program. Featuring smaller classes, individual attention from academic advisors and personalized education, Canadore is a good first step for many Aboriginal students.

www.canadorec.on.ca

University of Ottawa

Located in Canada's capital, the University of Ottawa offers excellent Aboriginal programming, including a major or minor in Aboriginal Studies through its Faculty of Arts. The school also features special programming in the Faculty of Law, an Aboriginal Teacher Education Program (Primary/Junior B.Ed or Certificate) and a School of Nursing Aboriginal Students Initiative under its Faculty of Health Sciences.

Of note is the Aboriginal Health Program in its Faculty of Medicine, which has a mandate to graduate Aboriginal doctors. Medical students from across Canada compete for seats in the prestigious program.

www.uottawa.ca

Elsewhere in Canada

Adventurous students may want to consider options in other regions of Canada. Here are a few interesting options.

Mount Royal University

With a view of the Rocky Mountains from its Calgary location, Mount Royal University's innovative Iniskim Centre provides academic support for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. The centre was created to increase enrolment and retention of Aboriginal students while increasing awareness of distinct cultures, history and protocols.

Among the programs offered is the Aboriginal Science and Technology Education Program (ASTEP), developed in response to the need for better representation of Aboriginal peoples in the fields of science and technology. ASTEP provides a comprehensive support system while you prepare for a variety of exciting careers in science and technology. It fosters a supportive learning model for Aboriginal students

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Earn a McGill education in **computer information systems** or **business management** from the comfort of your community.

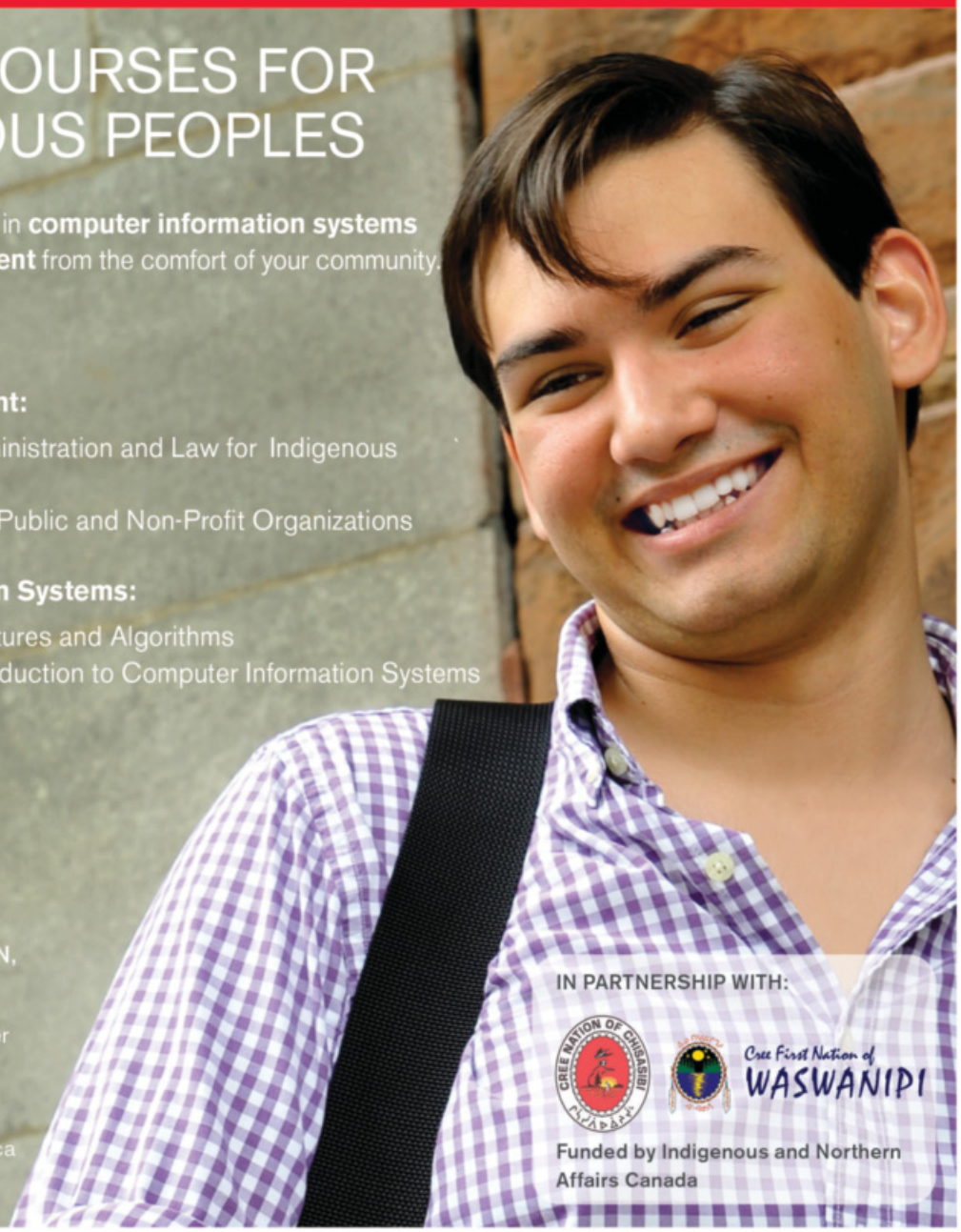
Upcoming courses:

Business Management:

- **March 7:** Public Administration and Law for Indigenous Peoples
- **June 6:** Managing in Public and Non-Profit Organizations

Computer Information Systems:

- **March 9:** Data Structures and Algorithms
- **September 14:** Introduction to Computer Information Systems



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Amanda Lim, Project Leader
Career and Professional Development
Telephone: 514-398-6469
Email: amanda.lim@mcgill.ca

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Cree Nation of Chisasibi
Cree First Nation of Waswanipi

Funded by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

WWW.MCGILL.CA/SCS-ONLINE

preparing for, and studying in, the Bachelor of Science (BSc) or the Bachelor of Computer Information Systems (BCIS) degree programs at Mount Royal.

www.mtroyal.ca

University of Winnipeg

The Department of Indigenous Studies at the University of Winnipeg is grounded in the intellectual and cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the globe. They welcome students from all backgrounds and disciplines to explore the unique complexities and broad, diverse cultures associated with Indigenous studies.

It offers multidisciplinary coursework in Indigenous/Aboriginal governance and other disciplines including politics, anthropology, history, religious studies, and conflict resolution studies. The department recognizes the central role of language as carrier of culture, tradition and knowledge.

uwinnipeg.ca

University of Saskatchewan

Perched on the slopes of the South Saskatchewan River valley in Saskatoon, the University of Saskatchewan offers extensive services and programs to its large Aboriginal student body. For the ambitious, there are specific law, business, management, science, education and medicine programs for Aboriginal students.

The strategy of Indigenous-centred education has met with success at U of S, where retention and graduation rates are steadily rising. Saskatoon is far from home, but may be a creative option for students working for a high-level career.

aboriginal.usask.ca

University of Victoria

On the southern tip of Vancouver Island, the University of Victoria may be the farthest university option available for Cree students in Canada. But there's one very interesting reason to for those considering a medical career to check it out: the Institute of Aboriginal People's Health.

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Honouring a complicated relationship

Joseph Boyden is named to the Order of Canada

by Jesse Staniforth

Just in time for New Year's Eve, author Joseph Boyden received news that rounded out 2015 as a year of enormous accomplishment.

The accolades previously included the position of Honorary Witness to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and an Indspire Award for the Arts. Now Boyden has completed a hat trick of honours with the news that he would be named to the Order of Canada. It was a complex combination of tributes for an author whose stories routinely deal with Canada's complicated colonial history, and its residential schools in particular.

The Nation reached Boyden by phone at his part-time home in New Orleans, where he teaches creative writing at a local university. We first asked him whether his relationship with Canada is as complicated as his characters, causing him to laugh.

"Oh, absolutely," he happily replied. "Why do you think I live in New Orleans?"

Turning serious, Boyden – whose ancestry is mixed Scottish, Irish and Anishnaabe – admitted he enjoys the "geographic and psychic" distance that living part of the year in another country provides him.

"I'm able to pull back and look at this complicated country that has the potential to be something extraordinary," he said. "I'm always arguing that we're not there yet, and certainly for the past 10 years under the Conservatives we were really set back. But we can change that."

Of the news that he had been named to the Order of Canada, he said, "I was taken aback, but really honoured. And also shocked – I've still got a lot to do in my career. Still, it's an incredible honour."

That accolade was a nice way to end a year that has seen enormous changes in the way Canadians are addressing their colonial history, particularly Indian residential schools. Along with the close of the TRC and the opening of Winnipeg's National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, the October election of Justin Trudeau (whose Liberal Party Boyden endorsed) brought the end of nearly a decade of rule by Stephen Harper's Conservatives, seen by many as deeply hostile to Indigenous communities and interests.

Joseph Boyden

"Look at what Trudeau has done already," said Boyden. "I'm not saying it's perfect, but we've got an inquiry being set up into missing and murdered Indigenous women, and we've got Trudeau talking about dealing with First Nations on a nation-to-nation level."

Nonetheless, he cautions against any interpretation that his support for the Liberals is simplistic, or his proclamation of love for Canada any less complicated than the relationships in his novels. After all, his first novel, *Three Day Road*, was the story of a Mushkegowuk Cree boy abducted from his family by an Indian agent and sent to residential school to have his culture and identity beaten out of him. After being rescued by his aunt and healed on the land with traditional medicine, the boy grows up to fight for Canada in the First World War.

"It's a complicated relationship," Boyden said. "I don't think if anyone reads my work they'll think everything's roses, by any means. But surely you

“We’ve passed the peak of the wrongdoing that colonialism created against our First Peoples, but a tide takes a long time to go up, and a long time to come down.”

always strive to be better in any way you can, both personally and on a bigger level. That’s my view of the world – if it’s not working, how do we make it better?”

Even in the waning years of the Harper government, Boyden said he saw signs of promise emerging from empowered grass-roots communities (especially the rise of the Idle No More movement) and the ongoing process of the TRC’s National Events. He believes these have forced non-Indigenous Canadians to confront a history of colonialism and atrocity. (Boyden’s first story about residential schools was published in the 1990s.)

“This is just the beginning,” Boyden said. “I’d compare it to a tide, and the tide has been devastation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people for generation after generation. The tide of destruction has finally reached its peak and is beginning to draw back, and what Canadians are starting to see now, is the detritus on the shoreline as the tide inches back. Now we can see the devastation left – it’s uncovered. We’ve passed the peak of the wrongdoing that colonialism created against our First Peoples, but a tide takes a long time to go up, and a long time to come down.”

Boyden remains hopeful that all Canadians – not just First Nations, Inuit and Métis – will understand that the work of reconciliation, of picking up the pieces left in the wake of the tide, is everyone’s responsibility.

“It was like a tsunami in slow motion over generations,” he said. “Now as it slowly edges out, it’s everybody’s job to rebuild and reconsider and to make amends.”

Department of
Justice and Correctional Services

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Take care in the cold

After a warm early Poo-poon (Cree for "winter") here in northern Ontario, now we are paying for it with temperatures of minus 20 or lower. The other day we got dumped with a lot of Koon (Cree for "snow") and, of course, I found myself performing that traditional pursuit – shoveling my driveway. There was so much snow and it was so cold that it seemed to take me forever and my face felt almost frostbitten.

This work took me back to my boyhood in Attawapiskat as I worked with my brothers and dad Marius to haul freight up and down the coast. Many times I found myself out on the narrow ice road driving an old tractor pulling rickety old trailers full of supplies. Back then it was better to drive at night when it was colder: the more frozen and harder the road surface conditions, the better it was for moving along. At night it was often 40 below, and even though my brothers and I were young, we worked long and hard to keep dad happy with his enterprising dreams.

I recall having so much energy back then. Often, after working hard all day, I would wander over to the outdoor rink to clear it of snow so we could have a game of hockey or broomball. It was easier to play broomball much of the time because we could keep our warm boots on. To play hockey required more preparation, skates, some equipment if possible and adherence to some rules. Broomball was like a free-for-all and those swinging brooms were at times used more like weapons.

This has been a year of change for me. For the first time in my life, I actually feel older. I know it has a lot to do with getting sick while traveling in Asia and India last year. Although I saw five doctors in those countries while sick, I never did find out what was wrong. I have never been so sick in my life and my friend Mike and I coughed up spots of blood for weeks. I think we might have had H1N1, but whatever it was it surely did knock the heck out of me. From time to time all kinds of crazy symptoms continue to affect me. The minor chore of shoveling my driveway now feels like a big job and requires a lot of my energy.

I worry about my family and friends up north this time of the year. Many are now in their late 30s, 40s and 50s. A lot of them are out of shape, even more so than me, and deal with being overweight. Others still smoke and that makes things even worse. My family still runs a successful business and they are out on the land working hard in very cold temperatures. These are dangerous jobs in critical conditions and although they do their work very well, I still worry about them.

As we get older we still think we can work all day at the same rate we did when we were younger, but the reality is we cannot. We still want to push ourselves and often a kind of macho thing takes over and we go over and above what we should be doing in our work. I have known many people over the years that have had heart attacks this time of the year while shoveling or doing other outside work in the frigid temperatures.

When working in very low temperatures for long periods you can develop cold stress. This can hinder your thinking, result in frostbite and create the conditions for a heart attack. Many people I know are out in remote areas. If something happens to them then things quickly get very serious with little medical assistance nearby.

I want to remind all those people I care about up on the coast this winter to be aware that they are not young anymore and they must take things a little more easy when working in the cold. I hope they take more breaks and warm up with a hot drink or a snack more often. I urge them not to overexert themselves in the cold weather as that can easily set up a scenario for a heart attack. My brothers and friends up the coast all have growing families with children and grandchildren and they need to remember that we are counting on having them around for a long time.

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